(b) the quantity of sugar confiscated from hoarders in different States and how the same was allocated in the market;

(c) when the shortage was anticipated, what arrangements were made to import sugar; and

(d) whether Government is giving subsidy on imported sugar to check rise in prices of sugar and its by-products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. Prices of non-levy sugar in festival seasons declined as indicated below:-

Ex-mill prices of non-levy sugar

(in Rs./qtl.)

States	4th Sept, 09 (Rs/qtl)	30th Sept, 09 (Rs/qtl)	19th Oct, 09 (Rs/qtl)
Uttar Pradesh	3040	2815	2870
Maharashtra	3050	2720	2860
Tamil Nadu	3150	2600	2825
Karnataka	3112	2645	2850
Andhra Pradesh	3200	2775	2925
Gujarat	3226	2795	2986
Punjab	3000	2788	3000

(b) Information is available in respect of the following States:-

Andhra Pradesh - 3399.92 quintals of sugar worth Rs.77,09,410/- has been seized from January, 09 to upto July,09.

Maharashtra - In July, 2009, District Administration of Kolhapur seized 265498 quintals of sugar from 160 sugar dealers.

Punjab - 153791.5 quintals of sugar have been seized in Patiala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Amritsar districts.

Rajasthan - The State Government has impounded 7418.71 quintals of sugar.

However, this Department has no information how such seized sugar were allocated in the market.

(c) The shortage of sugar was anticipated in the early part of 2008-09 sugar season and accordingly, the Government has permitted import of duty free raw and white/ refined sugar to augment domestic availability of sugar which is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(d) No, Sir.

Statement

Measures taken by the Central Government to permit import of raw and white/refined sugar with a view of augment domestic stocks of sugar

- Allowed import of raw sugar under Advance Authorization Scheme by sugar mills at zero duty upto 30.09.2009.
- Allowed import of raw sugar at zero duty under O.G.L. upto 01.08.2009 by sugar mills, later extended upto 31.03.2010. This has now been further extended upto 31.12.2010 *vide* notification dated 11.11.2009.
- Import of raw sugar was opened to private trade upto 31.03.2010 for being processed by domestic factories on job basis. This has now been further extended upto 31.12.2010 *vide* notification dated 11.11.2009.
- Allowed duty free import of white/refined sugar by STC/MMTC/PEC and NAFED upto 1 million tons by 01.08.2009 which was extended upto 30.11.2009. Further, duty free import of white/refined sugar under OGL has also been opened to other Central/State Government agencies and to private trade in addition to existing designated agencies, upto 30.11.2009. This has now been extended upto 31.3.2010 *vide* notification dated 11.11.2009.
- Levy obligation has been removed in respect of all imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar. The white/refined sugar has been also allowed to be sold at the discretion of the importing organizations, but sugar processed from imported raw sugar is subject to accelerated releases.

Insufficient storage facilities for foodgrains

195. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the storage facility for the foodgrains in the country is not sufficient resulting in increase in import of foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether Government would come forward to take adequate steps to improve the infrastructure for storing foodgrains; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the financial allocation for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As on 31.10.09 the FCI is having a total storage capacity of 278.59 lakh MT and the total stock held by FCI is 214.46 lakh MT. If wheat procurement in RMS 2010-11 follows the trend of procurement in RMS 2009-10, the present storage capacity may not be adequate to store wheat stocks.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. In order to overcome the shortage of space, following steps are being taken for augmentation of storage capacity:-